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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : As the Pension Rules prescribe the age of retirement as 55, and as the present teachers find it very difficult to reach the maximum, cannot the Government postpone the enforcement of this 55 age-limit rule so as to apply to the new entrants?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : In the case of new entrants, the age of retirement will be thirty years hence. The question is how to solve the present problem of unemployment among the trained teachers. For that purpose we have to take a decision whether we should continue the old teachers or give preference to the younger ones.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Government at least reduce the formula that a teacher should get pension only after thirty years to twenty-five years in view of the fact that this age-limit was curtailed only recently?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : For 25 years' service, proportionate pension is sanctioned.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : ஐயா, எத்தனை வயதில் ஆசிரியர்கள் ஓய்வு எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்பதுபற்றி இப்பொழுது ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள சம்பளக் கமிஷன் கவனம் செலுத்தி வருகிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : எனக்கு ஞாபகம் இல்லை. அறிக்கை வந்ததற்குப் பின்னால் பார்க்கலாம்.

English medium secondary schools

*111 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) district-wise, the number of English medium secondary schools in the State; and

(*b*) the principles governing the admission of pupils in English medium classes?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : From the remark in the printed statement, are we to presume that pupils whose mother-tongue is Tamil are not admitted at all in these English medium schools or are there any special rules governing such admissions and, if so, may I know what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Here it is stated that those who have studied in the English medium schools in the primary stage are also admitted.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 342 infra.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : In view of the policy of the Government to encourage the cultivation of English language, will the Government consider liberalising the rules by permitting one English medium class at least in each High School wherever there is demand?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The difficulty now would be to have sufficient number of teachers who can teach all the subjects in English. Now, having adopted Tamil for the last ten years, if we have once again English class, that means we will have to find as many teachers as there are schools and also with reference to each subject. I am afraid we have passed that stage and it will be dangerous to reverse the gear now.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it a fact that the general permission is not given to those who want to have English medium schools particularly as they depend upon the Government for grant?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The policy is not to start new schools except to provide facilities for linguistic minorities or the children of Central Government servants.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, have the Government any
3-10 p.m. plan with reference to the future period as to within how many years this system of English medium should be stopped?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I think anyhow for our generation this would go on, and I do not think we should be taking decisions for the next generation even now.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Finance Minister agree with the view that there is a greater desire on the part of those children who studied in Tamil to have English as their medium in the school?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, if facilities are available, and if that were possible, I would not mind the children having the English medium from their childhood onwards. But the special problem facing us is that we are making our children study in Tamil in the high school and then ask them to switch on to the English medium in the University classes. That is the specific problem posed before us with reference to the Tamil medium, particularly in the Universities.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, it is a question of demand and supply. Is the Hon. Minister aware that just on the opening of Convent schools or nurseries, where English is the medium, there is a very great demand for children, either boys or girls, to be admitted into them? If this is a fact, why should the Government of Madras put a ban and say, ' You cannot have this English medium and you should have only Tamil medium '?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The seats available there are very limited. Therefore, there is so much competition. Naturally we cannot be asking other people to open such schools.

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SRI S. NATARAJAN : Sir, since there is demand from a large number of pupils for English medium in the Convent schools where the number of seats restricted, will the Government consider the possibility of opening additional classes in the secondary schools to meet the demand?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is wrong to think that it is for the English medium that children go there. As a matter of fact, that is a better type of education because of the special attention paid to the children there. If we can have Tamil medium schools with the same facilities and with the same type of education, I am sure they also would be overcrowded, and I am saying this with a certain amount of experience.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, in view of the statement of the Hon. the Finance Minister that the other schools are better, will the Hon. Minister tell us what steps will be taken to improve the quality of our schools to bring them in line with the Convent schools?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It entirely depends upon the quality of the teachers. If we can have Graduate teachers for primary schools also, we can certainly improve the level of education. But, unfortunately, with our limited resources and with our object of bringing all the children into school, certainly we cannot adopt this method. But certain special schools adopt this method of having very well-trained teachers even for the primary classes. That is the attraction, and not the English medium of instruction.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of such cases as a Missionary society opening schools, with both English medium and Tamil medium, and requiring students to pay very heavily for the English medium and charging a small fee or nothing for Tamil medium students, and yet having five times the number of students in the English medium class and practically an empty class in the Tamil medium?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes. It is a psychological factor that because high fees are charged in the English medium class, that class would be much more valuable. If we should charge for the Tamil medium class the same high fee, I think the Tamil medium class also would have the same number.

Madhavaram Colony

* 112 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the progress so far made in the Madhavaram Colony and when it is likely to be completed;

(*b*) the amount of State loan so far granted;

(*c*) whether any foreign aid has been received and, if so, the amount thereof; and